## **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

## **Application Ranking Summary**

# **Upper South Platte WS - Forestry**

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Upper South Platte WS - Forestry		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

## **National Priorities Addressed**

Issue Questions	
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)?	Yes O or No O
2. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes O or No O
2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
3. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	Yes O or No O
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
5. a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
6. a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	Yes O or No O
6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	Yes O or No O
6. c. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	Yes O or No O
6. d. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	
6. e. Implement precision agricultural methods?	Yes O or No O
Strategic Initiative – Energy Conservation and Sustainable Production Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes O or No O
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Business Lines – Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	Yes O or No O
8. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	
Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full	Yes O or No O
compliance?	
9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes O or No O

#### **State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions		
1. Will the project reduce the amount of nutrients/pesticides/salt/selenium or other pollutants entering ground or surface waters?		
2. Will the planned practice(s) promote water conservation on the contracted acres?		
3. Will the project address invasive and/or noxious plants on contracted acres?	Yes O or No O	
4. Will the project result in an improvement to the existing management system to meet the state AFO/CAFO regulations?		
5. Does the project increase the diversity of desirable plants on grazing lands?		
6. Does the project improve the health of riparian and/or wetland areas?		
7. Is the proposed project located within the State's NRCS wildlife priority area, and do the planned practices address the habitat needs of the targeted species designated in the wildlife priority area or is the plan designed for pollinator habitat?		
8. Will the proposed project reduce field soil loss to below "T" or will the planned practice(s) reduce irrigation induced/streambank erosion?		
9. Does the applicant meet one or more of the following conditions: a. Did the applicant successfully complete any past EQIP contract(s) in full compliance; b. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance; or c. Applicant has never participated in EQIP?		
10. Has any portion of the offered acreage been set aside or inventoried by a Cultural Resources Specialist or Archaeologist?		
11. Does the proposed project support organic transition (farming operation to be used while transitioning from conventional to organic production)?		

## **Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the proposed project dominated by continuous Ponderosa Pine/Douglas Fir vegetation?	
2. Is the proposed project dominated by mixed conifer vegetation?	
3. Is the proposed project dominated by Lodgepole Pine or Open Ponderosa Pine Woodland vegetation?	
4. Is the proposed project dominated by deciduous vegetation?	Yes O or No O
5. In the treatment area, is the surface vegetation dead and down woody material with wild grass or shrubs (includes immature trees up to 8' in height)?	Yes O or No O
6. In the treatment area, is the surface vegetation wild grass or shrubs (includes immature trees up to 8' in height)?	Yes O or No O
7. Is 50% or more of the treatment area made up of heavy ladder fuels (shrubs, immature trees and branches within 6' of the surface)?	Yes O or No O
8. Is 20-50% of the treatment area made up of heavy ladder fuels (shrubs, immature trees and branches within 6' of the surface)?	
9. In the treatment area, is 50% or more of the slope greater than 30%?	
10. In the treatment area, is 50% or more of the slope 15-30%?	
11. Is the proposed project and associated practices part of an adjoining multi-landowner project?	

12. Is the purpose of the project to re-forest a landscape that burned more than 3 years ago?	
13. Is the insect and disease level within the treatment area "High Activity with tree loss"?	
14. Is the insect and disease level within the treatment area "Sporadic Activity and High threat or risk"?	
15. Is the insect and disease level within the treatment area "Sporadic Activity and Low threat or risk"?	
16. Is the insect and disease level within the treatment area "Not Active and High threat or risk"?	
17. Does the proposal address energy conservation with the application of a Conservation Power Plant (practice code 716)?	

#### Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
Ranking Score	
Efficiency:	
Local Issues:	
State Issues:	
National Issues:	
Final Ranking Score:	

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

	Application Signature Not Required for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: